

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH AND
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ADVANCING EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE SUCCESS OF EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH

In 2010, the California Fostering Connections to Success Act, also known as AB 12, extended benefits for foster youth from age 18 to 21. Under this law and several successor bills, older California foster youth are able to receive extended foster care benefits and services as long as they meet eligibility requirements (pursuit of educational or vocational opportunities; employment; or an impairing medical condition).

To effectively evaluate the impact of extended foster care on youth outcomes, in 2012 Chapin Hill launched the CalYOUTH study, and released Wave 2 data this past May. While the study revealed generally positive findings pertaining to housing arrangements; life skills training and preparation; school enrollment; and employment -- access to mental health services presented as key area of improvement. One in three youth screened positive for a mental health and/or substance use disorder and about one-in-five had some sort of suicidal ideation in the last two years (one-third of whom had actually attempted it). Unfortunately, only six percent of the youth reported receiving alcohol or substance abuse treatment and only one quarter had received any sort of psychological or emotional counseling.

Los Angeles County is presently serving 2,400 transition-aged foster youth, nearly one-third of the statewide older foster youth population. Last year, approximately 1,100 older youth aged-out of the County system. To address the needs of this population, the Board has enacted a series of motions over the last several years directing the Chief Executive Officer and County departments to address various concerns related to

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the needs of Los Angeles County's transition-aged youth and help meet four overarching goals: 1) educational attainment; 2) permanent housing; 3) stable employment; and 4) quality social and emotional connections.

The Board actions have established youth self-sufficiency as a countywide goal, initiated the development of a Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Action Plan and a comprehensive integrated service delivery plan to serve TAY populations.

The January 2013 Board motion ("Supporting the Long-Term Success of Young Adults and Transition-Aged Adults") directed the Chief Executive Officer, in conjunction with all affected youth-serving County departments and in consultation with the Commission for Children and Families, to develop a comprehensive integrated service delivery plan to serve TAY populations and included Management Appraisal and Performance Plan (MAPP) goals for all relevant County department directors. The last report on departmental progress was issued in 2014.

Around the same time, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection issued a bevy of recommendations to improve child welfare which included joint strategic planning, improved data sharing, improved educational stability, and expanded mental health services. To support these recommendations, the Board of Supervisors created an Office of Child Protection whose mission statement is: *Leading a broad partnership that implements meaningful solutions to improve the lives of our children and families.*

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection also recommended that the County establish a closer working relationship with the philanthropic community to help improve the child protection system, noting that the Director of the Office of Child Protection should engage the philanthropic community and build strategic public-private partnerships to help improve the child welfare system. In response, the County and the philanthropic community co-appointed a Director for a newly established "Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships."

Given the aforementioned key findings of the CalYOUTH Study particularly related to access to mental health services for LA County's older foster youth, coupled with the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations and the creation of the Office of Child Protection and Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships, it is imperative that this Board revisit the status of the inter-agency Countywide Youth Self-Sufficiency Initiative.

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The successful self-sufficiency of TAY is reliant on a broad partnership with meaningful solutions. Furthermore, self-sufficiency is critical to prevent future generations from cycling through the child welfare system.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Director for the Office of Child Protection, in conjunction with all affected County Departments including the Health Services Agency (including Mental Health, Public Health, and Health), Community and Senior Services, Office of Education, Public Social Services, Probation, and with input from the Department of Children and Family Services, to:

- Revisit the previously developed integrated service delivery and implementation plan to serve Los Angeles County Young Adults and Transitional Aged Adult Populations and report back on outcomes to date;
- Identify new goals to meet the unique needs of this population, starting engagement and service delivery at the age of 12 when possible;
- Establish new FY 16-17 Management Appraisal and Performance Plan (MAPP) goals for each affected department that align with objectives to provide services and meet the needs of these targeted youth and
- Report back to the Board in 90 days.

WE, FURTHER MOVE that the Office of Child Protection, in conjunction with the Director of the Center for Strategic Public-Private Partnerships, identify opportunities to engage the philanthropic community in the needs of young adults and transitional aged adult populations.

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